



Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission

May 9, 2012 1:00 pm central time

New Harmony Atheneum/Visitors Center

401 N. Arthur Street

New Harmony, IN 47631

President - John Gettinger Vice President - Dave Hacker
Treasurer - Robert Shepherd Secretary - Dale Brier

Meeting minutes

Voting Members Present:

Allen County - Don Jewell (proxy)
Carroll County - George Mears
Fountain County - Robert Shepherd
Gibson County - William Knowles
Huntington County - Dave Hacker
Knox County - Rama Sobhani
Miami County - Kenneth Einselen
Parke County - Phil Cox (alternate)
Posey County - Ralph Weinzapfel
Sullivan County - John Gettinger
Tippecanoe County - Rae Schnapp (alternate)
Vermillion County - Larry Southard
Vigo County - Keith Ruble (alternate)
Wabash County - Michael Beauchamp
Warren County - Louise Jewell
DNR - Dale Brier (alternate)

DNR Staff Present:

Leah Kopp - DNR Nature Preserves

Non-Voting Members Present:

None

Guests:

David Flanders
Bob Gentle
Keith Poole - Wabash County (alternate)
Tom Straw
Jim Stinson
Connie Weinzapfel

Voting Members Absent:

Adams County - Ryan Noblitt
Cass County - Arin Shaver
Wells County - Scott Elzey

Counties not participating

Jay County

Call to Order, Introductions, Announce proxies, Open Agenda

President John Gettinger called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM and then gave the floor to Connie Weinzapfel who manages the University of Southern Indiana Programs and properties in New Harmony. The reason New Harmony was founded was the Wabash River as it was used for the economic development of the community. Connie gave a brief history of the town of New Harmony and then introduced some guests in attendance. John then thanked Connie on behalf of the Commission for her help and hospitality.

After Board member introductions, John asked for proxies, Ron Zartman gave his to Don Jewell and Scott Elzey gave his to the president. John then opened the agenda and asked if anyone had anything they wanted to add Keith R. asked about possibly giving a river award to the governor of Indiana, and Louise Jewell suggested that Dr. Rae Schnapp give a report from the National River Rally.

Comments from Visitors or Guests

Jim Sanders invited everyone back to New Harmony in 2014 as they will be celebrating their bicentennial and they will be having many special activities going on. John then mentioned former commission member Tom Straw was present at the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Dave H., made a motion to approve the March 14 minutes with a second from Ralph W., motion carried.

President's Report

John reported that he had made several trips to attend meetings and do business on behalf of the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission (WRHCC). He attended a Banks of the Wabash (BOW) meeting, talked to several legislators about the new grants and the WRHCC, he held an executive meeting with Bob Shepherd and Dave Hacker, and helped with several different events. He was also able to retrieve the laptop from Knox County that was used by former treasurer, Chase Ellis.

Finance Report

Dale did not have finance report available, but the balance is just under \$400,000. When the report is available, he will forward it to the Commission.

Committee Reports

Budget

Dave Hacker stated that the budget was running very close to what had been predicted. Bob Shepherd did mention that he had made the adjustment of upping the webpage amount to \$2,300.00 and the final costs for the Spring Training at Turkey Run State Park was \$3,324.56 instead of \$3,000.00.

Grants

The grant manual is on the DNR Website. If you have any questions please call Bob Bronson. Rob Shepherd has already set up a meeting in Indianapolis with Bob to discuss a potential grant. Applicants should talk with Bob Bronson before filling out the application. If someone turns in an application that is not eligible, it is a waste of his or her time as well as the state's. Scott asked about a DNR news release concerning the grant, Dale said that one has not been done yet but they are planning to get one out very soon. Dale wants to tie the grant opening in with the Celebrate the Wabash River Event.

Legislative

John has talked to two Legislators and they are very much interested in what is going on with the Wabash.

Water Trail

Dale mentioned that at the last meeting everyone was told to get their forms to him and he got two. He then went on to say you do not have to fill out the form, just get the updated information turned in, writing on an existing water trail map is the easiest way.

Access Sites

Arin Shaver was not present, so Dale began giving the committee report. It was agreed that the maps the Wabash River would only show the official access points. They are the ones that are

defined as having dedicated parking, signage identifying the site, and a managing entity. Other places to access the river can be listed on another website and linked from the official WRHCC webpage. A motion was made to have all map updates, including camping and access, from Commissioners turned in within two weeks, by May 23. Rae made the motion, with a second from Mike. Dale then stated that they would be starting over with a completely new map. Dave then went on to say that if you do not report by the 23rd, your section of the map might not have anything on it. Dale then said he would start with a map with all of the Fish and Wildlife Access points on it and then start adding the new and improved dedicated sites that are turned in and that will become a new map. We will also be collecting the unimproved sites and camp locations to pass on to a second website.

A motion was then made to approve the recommendations of the committee. The recommendations were as follows: That the maps show only improved, official access points such points are defined as having parking, signage and a managing entity. The second recommendation is that the Commission budget funds to work with an existing source to create a more complete water trail map and then link to them through our website. The third recommendation is to ask the Commission to locate the access points and campsites in their counties. The report of the committee and its recommendations were approved. The next move will be to solicit conversations with someone who has a website that the Commission could help utilize. Rae suggested just linking to www.WabashRiver.us. Dale then added that the current WRHCC website is undergoing changes and it would be much easier to access and he will make sure that there is a link to the www.WabashRiver.us. Discussion on access points then followed. Larry then made the motion for the Commission to instruct a committee to discuss with Eric S. to add access points and campsites to his map for a maximum cost of \$500, with a second from Ralph. Motion carried with one opposing vote. The group discussed adding historic sites to the water trails maps. No action is being taken at this time.

Banks of the Wabash

Ken reported that the Banks of the Wabash had a meeting last month and the next is meeting June 20. Ken and Rae also had proposals for working with the Wabash River Keepers, and had reports on the cleanup that was in Lafayette and Peru.

War of 1812

Ken Einselen had a handout of all the upcoming events relating to the bicentennial.

Old Business

River Road and Heritage Community Sign Programs

Dale explained a little about the signs to the new committee members. He brought several examples of the signs with him and they were available to anyone who needed them. Mike B. reported on Wabash County and the signs they have. Four of them are hanging on the bridges after they got the authority from the city and the county commissioners. They have three lines of text on them. The top line is the name of the road, and what river mile you are at, the second line is information about your location, and the third line is the distance to the next point of interest. The city of Wabash did the lettering. Ken said that he has all of his signs up and they were up two years ago! Dale thought it was good that members were sharing where they were putting signs and why, this way the new commission members know where to display their signage. Members should contact Dale if they need signs.

Newport Chemical Depot Land “Re-Use”

Phil Cox reported there was nothing new only that they are continuing to look for business opportunities. He also mentioned that the Park Board in Vermillion County is interested in the Newport land.

River Currents

Please get articles to Susan Ulrich as soon as possible.

Indiana Bicentennial in 2016

No update.

Bridges and Railing

Ken and Keith met with INDOT on April 13 at the Crawfordsville INDOT District Office to discuss WRHCC signs for marking the Wabash River Corridor and Water Trail. Items discussed included: Corridor Signs, Water Trail signs, and Sign Faces. State crews will put on the signs but they will need to be reimbursed.

2012 Citizen Corridor Award

John reminded everyone that the Commission voted to contribute \$500 to the Celebrate the Wabash event June 12 in Terre Haute. John suggested that it might be a good idea for the Commission to give the Corridor Citizen Award to Indiana governor, Mitch Daniels at the event. Legislators, local officials and many others will be attending this event. Dale informed them that John would be riding in the boat representing the WRHCC. Dale then suggested that others on the Commission attend the event; it is open to the public. Larry made the motion with a second from Rae that if Commission members want to attend it is Commission business and the motion carried. Dave then made the motion to award Governor Daniels the Corridor Citizen of the Year award, with a second from Rae, motion carried with one member opposing. Members are to meet at Fairbanks Park at 1 PM. John volunteered to get the award.

New Business

River Clean ups for 2012

Wabash River clean up for 2012 in Wabash will be held on July 28, they have 22 teams and the lead team has 27 members.

On April 21, a clean up was held in Lafayette and Friends of Sugar Creek had a big clean up on April 28. Ken added that Peru had one on April 21 as well and they will have another one this fall he added.

Future Meeting Locations

The July 11 meeting will be held at the home of Don and Louise Jewell and they will have lunch prepared for everyone. Her address is 10577E 450N, Otterbein, IN 47970.

On September 12, the meeting will be held in Delphi, at Canal Park and lunch will be served. There will be a boat ride either before or after the meeting and a possible tour, this meeting is being hosted by George Mears.

The November 14 meeting will be held in Lafayette possibly at Celery Bog and hosted by Rae Schnapp.

River Rally

Rae had just returned from the National River Rally in Portland, Oregon she said that it was combined with the International Water Keepers Alliance. Attendance was great with about 800

people. She attended quite a few sessions on finance and fund raising. She went on to say that the Clean Water Act is turning 40 so there was a lot of discussion about it.

Final Comments by Commission Members, Alternates, and Guests

Dale mentioned that everyone must go online and take the States Ethics Training Course starting May 14 and the deadline for completion is June 1.

Louise made the motion to adjourn at 3:20 PM with a second from Rae. Motion carried.



On Sunday, June 3, the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission lost member Norman A. (Lucky) Neiburger, after a long battle with colon and liver cancer. Lucky served on the WRHCC since 1996 and was a champion of the Wabash River. In January of 2012, Lucky was awarded the Corridor Citizen of the Year, chosen by the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission. Those wishing to contribute in his memory can donate to the Faith Biblical Counseling Ministries.